



Shoreland Zoning Newsletter



Volume 23, Issue 2

Special Edition, Winter 2010


Timber Harvesting Standards and Administration

Municipalities have a choice regarding administration and enforcement of timber harvesting in the shoreland zone. The effective date of their choice is not effective when the ordinance is amended; it is determined by State statute.

The date references a threshold of municipalities that choose to either repeal their regulation or adopt the statewide standards. Until that date occurs, municipalities must continue to administer and enforce the current timber harvesting standards, receiving the same assistance as usual from the Shoreland Zoning Program.

If a municipality chooses to go it alone, then

nothing changes on the effective date, and assistance still comes from the Shoreland Zoning Program. If a municipality repeals, then the current standards will become ineffective, and the Bureau of Forestry will administer and enforce timber harvesting. If a municipality adopts statewide standards, then the current standards are replaced automatically, and the municipality may request assistance from the Bureau of Forestry.

The type of assistance is non-negotiable. The municipality retains the authority of administering the standards. The municipality remains responsible for enforcement, and the Forest Service will provide assistance with enforcement only when the municipality requests it. 

Share the News


Please distribute to the Code Enforcement Officer and municipal boards. To save on costs, we are no longer mailing to individuals, but we can email the newsletter; just email request to stephenie.maclagan@maine.gov. New and old newsletters are available at: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/szpage.htm#publicationssz>

Boat Wash Water Tanks in Setback Areas

State permitting is required for discharging antifouling paint contaminated wash water from boats, often associated with washing boats at boatyards and marinas.

Permitting requires that the wash water be collected and discharged appropriately, resulting in holding tanks, impervious wash pads, and underground piping. These are considered structures under

shoreland zoning ordinances; however, these are functionally water-dependent structures.

Permitting these structures would be similar to permitting accessory structures that are water dependent. They should be located as far back from the shoreline as practicable while still being functional. A shoreline setback of 25 feet is preferred where possible. 

State Imposed Ordinance Status

If your municipality has adopted amendments, please be sure they've been submitted and approved by the DEP. The list of municipalities to receive a State-Imposed Ordinance (SIO) is formalizing.

If your municipality has not adopted amendments, please note that the amendments are not immediately imposed. Municipalities must continue to administer and enforce the current ordinance in effect. Do not use the Guidelines in place of an ordinance. The Guidelines are for drafting an ordinance. A

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New Program Coordinator

The Shoreland Zoning Program welcomes the new Shoreland Zoning Coordinator!

Deirdre Schneider joins us after working for TRC Companies, where she was a member of their local permitting team. In that capacity she worked with local municipalities on permitting utility transmission right-of-way projects.

She has a B.S. in Environmental Policy from Unity College and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maine School of Law. While in law school she interned with both the DEP and the Attorney General's Office.

Deirdre is eager to help out Maine's central municipalities with shoreland zoning questions. As coordinator, she is also responsible for managing the Program's legislative and funding responsibilities. 🐟

State-Imposed Continued

SIO has to be drafted, landowners notified, and the Board of Environmental Protection, the DEP rule-making body, has to hold a hearing and then adopt the ordinance for the municipality before it becomes effective.

The Shoreland Zoning Program was down a staff member, and has continued assisting municipalities that are actively drafting amendments. The SIO process takes time and coordination. Now that the Program is fully staffed, more time will be focused on the SIO process.

Thank you for your patience. 🐟

Contact Us

Augusta
1-800-452-1942
Bangor
1-888-769-1137
Portland
1-888-769-1036
Presque Isle
1-888-769-1053

Deirdre Schneider
557-0353
Stephenie MacLagan
356-1643
Mike Morse
822-6328
Eric Hitchcock
557-2890

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017